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Development. (1958) Department.

Hg SERIES.

G.O. No. 888

Dated 21.2.58

[Despatch Abstract.]

Sub:- Administration Report - Provincial Fodder and Grazing Committee - Fasli 1356- Recorded.

GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS.
ABSTRACT.

Administration report - Provincial Fooder and Gazing Committee - Fasli 1356 - Recorded.

Development Department.

G.O. Ms. No. 858 Dated 21.2.48.
Read the following:-

From the Secretary, Provincial Fodder and Grazing Committee No. 205 Proceedings, dated 31.10.48?

(Recorded.)

(By order of H.E. the Governor)

(Sd) x xx
Secretary to Government.

To
The Secretary, Provincial Fodder
and Grazing Committee,
Chepauk, Madras.

/True copy/

Superintendent,
11.9.53.
Madras Record Office.

mr. 24.7

11/9/9

PROVINCIAL STANDING FODDER AND GRAZING COMMITTEE, MADRAS.

PROCEEDINGS NO. 205, Press, 31st October 1947.

Provincial Standing Fodder and Grazing Committee - Anual report on the working of - Fasli 1356 - Submitted.

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SIR GERALD PRIELTLEY, K.C.I.E., I.C.S.,
Chairman, Fodder and Grazing Committee.

Read- The following Paper:-

G.O. Ms. No. 1703, Development, dated 14th July 1938.

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RESOLUTION - No. 205, Press, dated 31st October 1947.

The following letter will be sent to the Secretary to Government, Development Department:-

With reference to paragraph 7 of the Government Order cited, I have the honour to submit the following annual report on the working of the Provincial Standing Fodder and Grazing Committee for fasli 1356.

2. During the fasli the Committee met twice at Madras on 9th August 1946 and 16th January 1947. Sir Gerald Priestley, Commissioner of Land Revenue and Irrigation, was Chairman of the Committee throughout the year. At the meeting held on 9th August 1946 all the members were present except Sri V.C. Vellingiri Gounder and Beritie A. Desouze. Esq., Livestock Development Officer, Capt. T. J. Hurley, M.R.C.V.S., D.V.S.M. and I.V.S. attended the meeting on return from leave instead of K.S. Nayar, All the members except the Director of Agriculture were present at the meeting held on 16th January 1947. Mr. Anandan (Headquarters Deputy Director of Agriculture) attended that meeting representing the Director of Agriculture, Madras.

3. The subject discussed at the meetings and the Committee's decision on them and the orders of Government (where they have been passed) are given below:-

MEETING HELD ON 9TH AUGUST 1946.

Subject No. I-J.A. WILSON'S PROPOSAL FOR THE ABOLITION OF THE PROVINCIAL STANDING FODDER AND GRAZING COMMITTEE.-The reasons for this proposal, as explained by Mr. Wilson, were briefly that the Provincial Livestock Improvement Board was dealing with the question relating to the improvement of cattle, that the subject of grazing and fodder was included in the scope of the activities of the Provincial Livestock Improvement Board and that as several members of the Fodder and Grazing Committee were members of the Livestock Improvement Board, much time of the official members was taken up to attend to two different meetings which practically dealt with the same matter. The Director of Agriculture supported Mr. Wilson's proposal adding that it would help the quick implementation of policies if matters relating to Fodder and Grazing were dealt with by a Sub-Committee of the Livestock Improvement Board. Mr. Cherian Jacob strongly opposed the proposal. He urged that if the ~~Com~~

committee was abolished the question of fodder and grazing would not receive the particular attention which it was now receiving. There was then a general discussion on the proposal, and finally it was ascertained by the Chairman that the general sense of the meeting was that the Fodder and Grazing Committee should continue. Mr. Wilson's proposal was accordingly dropped.

At the instance of the Chairman, the transport problem as it affected fodder in Ceded districts was considered by the Committee. After some discussion it was decided that information might be called for from the military authorities as to the methods adopted by them to press fodder. The Chairman finally said that what was wanted was some organization which would function continually even if at times only on a care and maintenance basis so that any machinery like baling press could be kept in order and always for service.

A copy of the above was sent to the Board of Revenue (Land Revenue) for necessary action.

The Committee then discussed the second subject, viz., the experiments that were conducted at Jaganath Gowshala on the question of treatment of cattle fodder.

The Director of Agriculture who explained the broad results of the experiments, said that the losses were too high for the fodder treatment to be considered an economic proposition, even taking into account the fact that Indian cattle were able to digest more economically than American and British cattle. The Director of Veterinary Services enquired whether the fodder treated by special methods was more nutritional than untreated fodder. He also enquired whether the nutritional value would not exceed the amount spent on special treatment. Mr. K. Cherian Jacob made detailed comments on the results of the experiments and brought to the notice of the Committee the fact that it was remarked in the report that certain kinds of fodder like kambu fodder and Botha grass which were not normally palatable to cattle might be made palabatable by chemical treatment. There was difference of opinion as to whether it would be economical proposition to take up this question. Finally, the report on the experiments were recorded, leaving it to the Director of Agriculture to decide the question of continuing the investigation on specific lines.

The third subject discussed was the lines of research recommended by the soils Wing and Board of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry in India with regard to the development of fodder crops and grasses the general opinion was that the lines of research recommended by the Crops and Soils Wing of the Board of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry in India, covered a very wide field and that the fodder and Grazing Committee was not in a position to prepare specific schemes on the lines suggested, especially in view of the fact that new schemes had to be got ready and submitted for the consideration of the Board of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry early in September 1946. Mr. M.K. Reddi, remarked that unless definite schemes were put up to the Board of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry, Madras Province would stand to lose any subsidies that the Central Government might sanction for the execution of these schemes. The Director of Veterinary Services replied that schemes could be submitted for consideration in September 1947 and that as subsidies could he got then, it would not really matter if any schemes were not submitted before September 1946. The only course open to the Committee in view of the shortness of time was to

decide the order of priority as among the 11 items mentioned in the letter of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. The general sense of the meeting was that the items deserved priority mentioned in the following order, viz., items 1,4,5,6 and 7 as mentioned below:-

Item 1-The best method of laying down and improving grass in (a) arid areas.

Item 4- The cultivation of catch crop fodders.

Item 5- A study of the reasons of the unpopularity of silage-making and the methods of overcoming it.

Item 6- Improvement of ~~utilizing~~ the nutritive value of wild grasses by (a) breeding, (b) management.

Item 7- Methods of utilizing waste land for pasture and for fodder trees.

It might be remarked in passing that the Director of Agriculture asserted during the course of the discussion that the obstacle in the way of growing more fodder is the lack of water. There is no use telling a ryot to grow more fodder unless we showed him how to grow it, and where to grow it. But, a ryot would prefer to grow a food crop which incidentally yielded also some straw, rather than grow nothing else except fodder, with the risk that he would go short of food himself. Mr. Wilson said that the key to the whole problem play in the fact that the condition of the surface soil is deteriorating and being denuded as the result of the removal of the surface of the soil, i.e., trees, undergrowth and grass by overfelling and overgrazing. Unless there was adequate protection to the surface of the soil, the amount of water that would percolate would be veyry restricted. The digging of more wells only meant that we were digging into capital, viz., the underground store of water, unless that is replenished too. Incidentally, the Director of Agriculture informed Mr. Reddy that the wells which were being excavated under the subsidy scheme would be used for irrigating not only food crops, but fodder crops as well, as fodder was food for the cattle.

At the suggestion of Mr. D.M.K. Reddy, there was a discussion on the question of the shortage of groundnut cake. As a result of the Government Order entrusing the Agricultural Department to purchase the entire output of groundnut cake for use as manure, it was felt that no groundnut cake was available for feeding milch cattle. The Director of Agricultural pointded that Madras Presidency was deficit in groundnutcake, and that it was not possible to import any groundnut cake from other provinces. It was agreed that it would be shortsighted policy to refuse groundnut cake for cattle, as the supply of milk and the condition of work bullock was no less important than growing more food crops. It was resolved by the Committee to request the Government to set apart some groundnut cake for milch cattle and for bullocks. The resolution was submitted to the Government with a request to set apart a certain percentage of the output of groundnut cakes for milch cattle and work bullocks. The orders of Government are still awaited.

At the instance of the Director of Veterinary Services, the Chairman agreed to have a brief note prepared, containing the resume of the work of the Fodder and Grazing Committee ever since it was started. A resume of the work done since the inception of the Committee was accordingly prepared by the Secretary, and sent to all members of the Committee in its proceedings No. 177, dated 15th October 1946.

MEETING ON 17TH JANUARY 1947.

THE FIRST SUBJECT DISCUSSED WAS THE SYSTEM OF ROTATION AS APPLICABLE TO FOREST PANCHAYATS.- This was proposed by Mr. K. Cherian Jacob. Mr. Vellingiri Gounder remarked that forest panchayats required better management and supervision than at present, and suggested that the forest panchayats might be handed over to the control of Forest Department. He also alleged that the presidents of forest panchayats were inclined to be unscruplous and autocratic. The Secretary of the Committee drew the attention of the members to B.S.O. No. 195-A in which provision is made for controlling grazing and also ~~which for provision is made for controlling grazing and also~~ for improving forest panchayats. The Chairman and Chief Conservator of Forests explained that recommendations for the abolition of forest panchayats and for their administration of by Forest Department have already been made to Government by the Board of Revenue. In reply to a further query, the Chief Conservator of Forests said that scheme did not contemplate the entire elimination of the forest panchayats, but made provision for associating panchayatdars with management of forests by Forest Department.

As the decision of Government regarding the future management of forest panchayats was still awaited, the following resolution was passed:-

"Resolved that the discussion of this subject be postponed, pending the final orders of the Government on the question of the future management of panchayat forests."

The SECOND ITEM discussed was an examination of the possibility of utilizing waste lands in the province for growing fodder with reference to the report of the SPECIAL OFFICER for waste and fallow lands.

It was considered that as the Special Officer's report was made primarily in connection with Grow More Food Campaign, his report would not be of much use for the purpose of the Committee. Paragraphs 17 and 18 of his report relating respectively to pasture lands in private holdings, and to lands in villages used as cattle stand, were circulated to the members. As regards private lands the Committee concluded that the villagers would not agree to conversion of cattle stand porambokes to pasture porambokes. The Chairman brought to the notice of the Committee, the fact that considerable extents of land where being left vacant in Tamil districts. Mr. K. Cherian Jacob drew the attention

was of opinion that it was not desirable for Government to consider any schemes relating to item 5. As for cattle stands the Committee c

of the Committee to item 2 "A study of the Administrative control of common grazing ground at present in force and the methods of reform" of the letter no. F. 22 (24/45-D, dated 4th July 1946, from the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research to the Provincial Government in which definite schemes had been called for, and enquired whether paragraph 18 of the Special Officer's report could not be regarded as falling within the scope of above item.

As at present the grazing and pasure even in forest panchayats, was not being effectively controlled, the Committee was not hopeful of controlling the same in private holdings and cattle stand porambokes which are more accessible for spoliation to ryots and village cattle. Mr. Hurley, who attended the meeting of the Animal Husbandry Board at Lucknow, informed the Committee of a suggestion made by it to consider the possibility of growing fodder trees on waste lands. It was felt that any such scheme would be taken up only under Government control. The Chairman stated that the cost of transport would be a vital factor in the ~~best solution for the fodder and t~~ success of any scheme for growing fodder and that the best solution for the fodder problem would be for the ryots to grow their own fodder. Mixed farming was considered to have immense possibilities. Sri Vellingiri Grounder referred in this connection to the KUMAKI method of cultivation prevailing in the Forest Department, and also to the new methods of experiments of fodder growing said to have been undertaken ~~sehe~~ in Australia. He was of the view that all these schemes should be the responsibility of special departments or at least special officers under the control of the technical departments concerned to secure steady progress. The Committee then passed the following resolution:-

"The Committee considers that the possibilities of growing pasture and fodder crops on private and public waste lands in this Province are very limited. But it is of the view that attention may be paid to the question of growing fodder trees on poramboke lands and waste lands at the disposal of Government."

The above resolution of the Committee was submitted to Government in its Proceedings No. 184, dated 5th February 1947, with a request to issue instructions to Collector if the Government agreed with the Committee's views.

The THIRD ITEM discussed was an examination of the possibility of utilizing city sewage water for raising fodder crops in the city.

This subject had already been discussed at a previous meeting held on 17th October 1945. The reports of the Director of Agriculture and Chief Conservator of Forests in the matter were explained to the Committee. The Secretary informed the Committee of the proposal of the Commissioner of the Madras Corporation for the shifting of the outlet of the City's w sewage at Tondiarpet ~~feed~~ to a point two miles further off, and also for raising fodder crops on an extent of 5,000 ~~acres~~ near Tondiarpet, making use of the sewage water. The Head quarters Deputy Director of Agriculture informed the Committee that the sewage farms at Ma-

Madura were working successfully and that, there, an acre of land yielded annually about one lakh of pounds of grass. It was also elicited by the Chairman that the soil in Madura was gravelly and porus whereas the soil in Madras was clayey and not suceptible of easy drainage.

From a general point of view, the Committee expressed the view that it is a pity to waste enormous quantities of sewage in Madras City, by just letting it run into the sea, but that the question of the economic exploitation ~~of the economic~~ ex of the sewage was mainly a matter for experts (especially Sanitary Engineers) to investigate. Mr. Wilson was definitely of the opinion that any scheme for the economic utilization of the sewage would have to be heavily subsidized by the Government and that it would be worthwhile for Government to grant such subsidies. The following resolution was passed by the Committee:-

"RESOLUTION;- The Committee considers it an economic waste not to utilize the city sewage for constructive purposes, but merely to run it into the sea. It would be worthwhile for the Government to subsidize any feasible scheme for utilizing the city's sewage to grow fodder. The Committee realizes that difficult problems are involved in the clayey nature of the Madras soil and the lack of proper drainage facilities. The Committee would suggest that experiments be conducted on, say a plot of 50 acres, to find out the possibilities of utilizing the city's sewage."

The FOURTH ITEM on the agenda was an examination of the comparative merits of different grasses and weeds likely to prove useful as fodder to milch cattle round about Madras. The Committee thought that this subject was a technical one and that definite reports were necessary from the Director of Agriculture if its opinion was desired on any specific point. The subject was accordingly not further discussed.

The FIFTH ~~ITEM~~ subject on the agenda was an examination of the comparative merits of different grasses and weeds likely to prove useful as fodder to milch cattle round about Madras. The Committee thought that this subject was a technical one and that definite reports were necessary from the Director of Agriculture if its opinion was desired on any specific point. The subject was accordingly not further discussed.

The FIFTH SUBJECT considered was an examination of the measures to be adopted to meet fodder scarcity in the Province by-

(a) the Government directing the Director of Agriculture to take over groundnut-cake produced by chekkus and to issue the required quantity of cake to bonafide cattle owner (as he is doing with the expellercakes for manure), and

(b) by increasing the output of forest fodder grasses by 100 per cent.

This subject was proposed by Mr. Cherian Jacob. After discussion on (a) the Committee did not consider it practicable to control the groundnut cake produced by chekkus in view of the fact that chekkus are scattered all over the province, and as their output is generally so small as to leave little surplus for export outside the immediate vicinity, presuming that the owners of the chekkus do not utilize the entire output themselves.

During the discussion on (b) Mr. Cherian Jacob explained that if forest fodder grasses were first cut just before flowering in the month of October, the second cutting could be made in January thus enabling two harvests giving an increase of fodder by 100 per cent. He suggested that the Chief Conservator of Forests would conduct ~~exper~~ experiments on 5 acre plots. Mr. Wilson was doubtful about the possibility of Mr. Cherian Jacob's proposal especially in forest areas with scanty rainfall. Mr. Murari stated that the possibility of getting two harvests depended on the amount of rainfall, as his ecperiments at Husur were a success only in a year of good rainfall. Mr. Hurley pointed out the lesser nutritive value of hay and suggested that cattle might be allowed to graze straightway after the first cutting. The Committee therefore decided to drop the matter.

The next item on the agenda was an examination of the lines of research recommended by the Soils Wing of the Board of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry in India with regard to the development of fodder crops and grasses. Out of the several items suggested by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research the Committee restricted itself to the following ~~Research the Committee restricted itself to the following~~ two items as it considered that if too many items were suggested, to Government there was a risk of none of them being sanctioned. The item selected were-

(1) ITEM NO. 1:- The best method of laying down and improving the grass in (a) forest areas and (b) arid areas.

(2) ITEM No. 7:- Method of utilizing waste lands for pasture and fodder trees. Besides these the Committee considered that schemes of mixed farming should also be investigated. Mr. Hurley explained that mixed farming schemes were snactioned by the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research in other provinces like Punjab. Mixed farming was not however included in the letter of the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research. In view of its importance, the Committee desired that the Government should be asked to sanction schemes of mixed farming. The following resolution was passed on the subject.

"Resolved that the Chief Conservator of Forests and the Director of Agriculture be requested to send to the Committee concrete schemes relating to the above two items and also schemes relating to mixed farming, for being submitted to Government ith a view to their being forwarded to the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research."

The Director of Agriculture and the Chief ~~Con~~

Conservator of Forests have been requested to send concrete schemes on the items with a view to their being submitted to Soils Wings of the Board of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry in India.

The next subject was the Director of Agriculture's ~~stud~~report on the results of the experiments conducted in growing sunn hemp without irrigation on different types of soil in blocks of 5 to 10 acres. These experiments had been undertaken at the request of the Committee at its meeting on 23rd Febraury 1945. The report was only for the information of the Committee and it was recorded.

The problems arising out of the Statistical study of fodder and grazing resources were next discussed. During the discussion it was urged that the solution of the fodder problem should be sought in the agricultural lands and not in forests. The importance of soil conservation measures and contour bunding was also stressed. The Committee did not pass any resolution on the subject, as it was assumed that all the members would study the Memoir supplied to them at the meeting and propose in due course specific problems arising from the memoir for discussion at future meetings.

The last item for consideration was the report of the Director of Agriculture that ensilage of hill grasses in South Kanara district was not a success, that ryots gave it up as the cattle did not relish the product and that instead of ensilage, hay-making was more urgent. As the report was only for the information of the Committee it was recorded.

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A brief note on the further action taken on some of the resolutions of the Committee is appended to this letter.

(Sd) x x x x/10.2.48.
Secretary, Fodder and Grazing Committee.

To the Secretary to Government, Development Department
(with an appendix)

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APPENDIX.

NOTE ON THE ACTION TAKEN ON SOME OF THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE.

RESOLUTION NO. V OF THE 12TH MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE:-

"Promoting ensilage in South Kanara by granting subsidies to ryots."

Demonstrations were conducted at the Agricultural Research Station, Pillicode. A good many people turned up to see the processes, and they showed interest in the process.

"The question of the movement of fodder in the Ceded Districts" discussed at the 16th meeting held on 7th August 1946.

To meet the unprecedented demand for fodder from the famine areas in Bellary and Anantapur districts, as many as 25 centres of production were opened in Bellary, Anantapur and Kurnool districts; but only 15 Stevenson Hand-presses were available in the Division for compressing the hay into bales. Six more baling presses were obtained from the Forest Department, Central Provinces, and Berar through the Inspector-General of Forests, Delhi, to facilitate transport of fodder from the production centres to the Fodder Depots in the Bellary and Anantapur districts.

RESOLUTION NO. II OF THE 16TH MEETING HELD ON 7TH AUGUST 1946:- "An examination of the results of the chemical treatment of the fodder grass."

It was left to the Director of Agriculture to decide the question of continuing the experiments. The Director of Agriculture has dropped the matter as he considered that no useful purpose would be served by the experiments.

RESOLUTION NO. II OF THE 17TH MEETING HELD ON 16TH JANAURY 1947:- "An examination of the possibility of using cited sewage water for raising fodder crops in the city."

The question is under correspondence with the Public Works Department.

Resolution No. VII OF THE 17TH MEETING HELD ON 16TH JANUARY 1947:- "The lines of research recommended by the Soils Wings of the Board of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry in India."

The Director of Agriculture stated that no further action is necessary. The Chief Conservator of Forests had not replied before the end of the year.

/True copy/

Superintendent,
4.9.53.
Madras Record Office.

mr. 24.7

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